

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently amended) A method of coating an implantable medical device, comprising:

adding a copolymer of an ethylene comonomer with a carboxylic acid comonomer to a solvent system to form a composition;

mixing a therapeutic drug with the copolymer composition to allow the drug uniformly dispersed in the copolymer composition, wherein the drug concentration is 5% to 20% by weight;

applying the composition to an implantable medical device; and

allowing the solvent system to evaporate;

wherein the carboxylic acid comonomer content is 5% - 50 wt %.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the carboxylic acid comonomer is selected from a group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, itaconic acid, and esters thereof.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein adding the copolymer to the solvent system further comprises neutralizing the copolymer in a volatile or a non-volatile base and dispersing the copolymer in water and/or a co-solvent.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the solvent system comprises toluene.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the solvent system further comprises a chlorinated solvent and a lower alcohol.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the carboxylic acid co-monomer has a content in the copolymer 15% to 40% by weight.

51.-52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the co-polymer is ethylene acrylic acid.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the device comprises a stent.

55. (Canceled)